



# The Pearland Harvester

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF SERVICE, BUILDING UP  
THE BODY OF CHRIST

## THE ALTAR OF WITNESS

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After Israel had conquered the land of Canaan, the fighting men of the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh were summoned by Joshua. He commended them for their faithfulness in keeping all that Moses had commanded them. Next he warned them to remain faithful to Jehovah God in all of their future dealings, and finally he blessed them and released them to return to their families on the east side of the Jordan (Joshua 22:1-9).

Just before crossing the Jordan, the men of these tribes erected a large altar on the west side of the Jordan along the frontier (22:10-11). As word spread of their actions, all of Israel assembled at Shiloh in preparation for making war on these tribes. Phinehas, the priest, and the most senior elder of each of the remaining tribes were then sent to confront the men of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh saying, **“What is this unfaithful act which you have committed against the God of Israel, turning away from following the Lord this day, by building yourselves an altar, to rebel against the Lord this day?”** (22:16). These emissaries also noted that when some of God’s people engage in idolatry all of the people suffered God’s wrath (22:17-18) and even the sin of one man had caused suffering and death at the battle of Ai (22:19-20).

There is no mistaking the seriousness of this offense in the minds of the emissaries. They were the vanguard of a military action, and they used phrases like **“unfaithful act,” “turning away,”** and **“rebel against the Lord.”** They compared this act of building an altar with the sins of Peor and the unfaithfulness of Achan who took things under the ban at Jericho.

The response given by the men of these eastern tribes was lengthy, emphatic, and intense. They first point out that God knows their motives, but they want their brethren throughout Israel to also know and understand their motives (22:21-22). Then they assure the elders of Israel that if they have engaged in an act of idolatry or unfaithfulness to the Lord, then they did not deserve to be spared and that their punishment would be no less than the hand of the Lord turned against them (22:22-23). Finally, after denying that they had acted unfaithfully, they explained exactly why they had built their altar. They were concerned about the generations to come and were afraid that in time some on

the west side of the Jordan would consider their future generations to no longer be a part of the covenant, saying, **“You have no portion in the Lord”** (22:27). The altar was never intended to be an instrument of worship or sacrifice, but an altar of witness to remind the future generations of both sides that those on the east side of the Jordan were brethren and **“that the Lord is God”** (22:24-29). Furthermore, they would not cease to worship the Lord at Shiloh, the designated place where the tabernacle was pitched in permanency.



The explanation that these men gave for their actions was acceptable and allayed the valid concerns of those sent to find out what was meant by building this altar. For their part, the elders of Israel, upon hearing this explanation, thanked the men for their forthrightness and for keeping the western tribes from making war against them. They said, **“Today we know that the Lord is in our midst, because you have not committed this unfaithful act against the Lord; now you have delivered the sons of Israel from the hand of the Lord”** (22:31).

What lessons could we take from this event? First, honest men can misunderstand the motives of others. Nothing indicates that the rest of Israel was wrong to be alarmed at what they saw but misinterpreted. Second, unfaithfulness to God, especially on a level that involves widespread unfaithfulness, is serious and must be confronted. While in fact there was no unfaithfulness, it did not appear that way to the rest of Israel; and their serious reaction to their perceptions is justifiable. If we were equally as serious today, there would be less sin in the camp! Third, choosing wise men to investigate is prudent. It was nothing less than what was required for those under that covenant (Deut. 13:12-15). We should be equally as prudent by checking our facts before dialing our phones or spreading rumors in other ways. Fourth, be willing to listen to reason. The explanation given ran for nine verses (while the confrontation and rebuke was only five verses in length), and it gave assurances of faithfulness to the Lord regarding every single valid concern that had been raised. Fifth, when a brother proves his innocence in a matter for which you feel wronged, be thankful and acknowledge that he has kept you from sinning against him by judging him falsely.

God gave us the information in Joshua 22 for a reason (Rom. 15:4).

For the Record—10-2-16	
Sunday AM	139
Sunday PM	50
Wednesday (9-28-16)	56
Contribution	\$5,538
Weekly Budget	\$5,800
YTD Contribution	\$201,705
YTD Budget	\$232,000

**Weekly Bible trivia question.** Please submit answers to the elders. The first correct answer reported to the office will be recognized and published in the next bulletin. **Here goes...What trumps a dead lion?**

**Daily Bible chapter reading schedule,** beginning Thursday, October 6, 2016:

Thursday—2 Timothy 1-2  
 Friday—Numbers 9-12  
 Saturday—1 Chronicles 15-19  
 Sunday—Psalms 102-104  
 Monday—Proverbs 20-21  
 Tuesday—Hosea 8-14  
 Wednesday—John 10-12

The correct answer to last week's question was: Christians are not described by leather, an eagle, or a cup (but each is mentioned in the New Testament as metaphors). Christians, either individually or collectively, are described as sheep (1 Peter 2:25), a spiritual house being built (1 Peter 2:5), soldiers (2 Timothy 2:2-4; Ephesians 6:10-17), vessels (Romans 9:23; 2 Corinthians 4:7; 2 Timothy 2:20-21), builder (1 Corinthians 3:10), gold (the Christian's faith—1 Peter 1:7).

James Maxcey gave the first correct answer.

There will be a game day for the youth on Saturday, October 8, 2016, in the Annex beginning at 1:30 PM. However, all ages are more than welcome to attend. Call Zack Williams if you have any questions.

*Friends*



November 6, 2016 (please note the date change)

*Invite someone to be your guest and to stay for a great meal!*



*Family Day*

**KEPT IN PRAYER**

Our deepest sympathy to the family of **Benjamin Ray Davis**, who passed away October 2, 2016. A memorial service will be held at 6 PM, Thursday, October 6, 2016, at New Hope Church, 3640 CR 58, Manvel TX 77578. Benjamin was the grandson of Ben and Susan Lenamon.

**Kaliya Kelly** is having surgery on October 10, 2016.

**Larry Doolen**, Sweeny High School classmate of Judy Indest, is undergoing radiation and chemo for an inoperable form of cancer near his brain stem. Please pray for Larry and his wife, Carla.

**Continuing Need:**

**Our Members:** Fran Barnhill, Annette Bumpers, David & Libby Clayton, Daisy Dees, June Evans, Matthew Fabian, Bennie Sue Galindo, Ross Genaro, Dorendia Hamilton, Charlyne Harper, Murrell Hill, Judy Indest, Kaliya Kelly, Wanda Kirby, Dorothy Kirkland, Wanda Knight, Clifford Layton, Ben Lenamon, Jan Lemoine, Vi Price, Betty Pridgen, David Smith, Loma Stone, Sandy Stone, Doris Stuteville.

**Others:** Carol Addison, Kathrynne Ahmed, Leona Anderson, Timothy Anderson, Lincoln Backward, Octaline Beaupierre, Evelyn Cordell, Ray Craycraft, Larry & Carla Doolen, Billie Dykes, Linda Evans, Glenda Garner, Betty Goad, Sarah Goeman, Heatwole family, Charles (Huck) Huckabee, Logan Indest, Carol Jackman, Sharon Johns, Marc Johnson, Nelderine Johnson, Kerry Lemoine, Pat Lewis, Martha Locke, Sally Lynch, Austin, Celia, & Doug Matthews, Ron McCright, Mary Means, J. S. Miller, Pat Miller, Scott & Cindy Miller, Lewis Moss, Lauren Murphy, April Parker, Mark Pridgen, Cloey Pruitt, Sandra Brown Ryan, Henry Schaefer, Vicki Schwierking, Don Scott, Sherly Scott, Rick Stone, James Thabiso Taylor, Larry Thornhill, Leon Vanderveer, Bennett Vincent, Alexis Anderson Washington, Mary White, Wanda Williams, Gloria Wolf, and the families suffering from an accident in Ohio.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chris Lindelof is our contact elder for **October**. If you would like to schedule a meeting, please see **Chris**.

**October 2016**

- 5 Wednesday Night with the Master—Meal served at 6 PM in the Annex. Menu is fried chicken, potato salad, beans, rolls, and desserts. Meal is coordinated by Jo Knight & Nina Layton. Areas of service begin at 7 PM.
- 8 Ladies' Prayer Breakfast—8 AM—Kelley's
- 8 Elders-Deacons-Ministers Meeting—9 AM—Elders' Conference Room
- 12 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex
- 26 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex



Brother DC Brown is in Dominica, participating in the 50th Anniversary Celebrations. He reports that the speakers have all been excellent, zealous, and inspiring. There have been several responses to the gospel preaching.

Hurricane Matthew prevented quite a few people from traveling to the island. Please pray for DC's and everyone's safety as they return to their homes. Please pray for the people who are suffering from Hurricane Matthew's devastation.

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Thank you all for making me feel so welcome! Thank you for your prayers for my brother, Leon Vanderveer, and my family. Thank you also for so many cards and well wishes for our anniversary. Thank you, Judy Indest, for my beautiful Bible bag. I love it!

So looking forward to meeting all of you!

Your Sister in Christ,  
Linda Sherrill



The **Arms of Hope Grocery Run** will be the week of **October 24-28, 2016**. We need to collect the following:

**Variety of Salad Dressings (please check the expiration date)**

Please bring your items by Sunday, October 23. Arms of Hope did not specify quantity, but let's have a generous donation.

**October Birthdays**

- 1 Brenda Riggs
- 4 Libby Clayton
- 8 Ginny Lindelof
- 16 Clifford Layton
- 16 Joy Sloan
- 20 Susan Lenamon
- 20 Angela Parker
- 27 Sarah Romain
- 27 Jerri Farmer
- 28 Steven Cuellar
- 28 Daniel Townzen
- 29 Nnenna Osuorji
- 29 Jimmy Terry

**October Anniversaries**

- 2 Clifford & Nina Layton
- 5 Lynn & Lucille Adams
- 28 Dwight & Leah Bateman
- 29 James & Laurie Maxcey

## Those to Serve

## *Pearland Church of Christ*

...equipping the saints for the work  
of service, building up the body of Christ...

2217 N. Grand Blvd.

**Pearland, TX 77581 • 281-485-2436**

Wednesday Evening October 5	Wednesday Evening October 12
Building Lock Up—G Adams <i>WNWTM</i>	Building Lock Up— G Fabian

Morning Worship October 9	Morning Worship October 16
Opening Prayer James Maxcey	Opening Prayer Charlie Story
Song Leader Gary Adams	Song Leader Greg Fabian
Communion	Communion
<i>Presiding:</i> Bob Williams	<i>Presiding:</i> Demetris Kelly
Tom Langford Jacob Carriere	Jake Satterwhite Josh Hundley
Derek Mauney Clifford Layton	Bobby Parker Nathan Scarsdale
Paul Hamilton Gheath Alatrash	Matthew Fabian Phil Godwin
Announcements Chris Lindelof	Announcements Chris Lindelof
Closing Prayer	Closing Prayer
Nursery Attendants	Nursery Attendants
Canova Genaro Elaine Genaro	Angela Parker Tracey Mauney
Ushers (*indicates head usher)	Ushers (*indicates head usher)
*Daniel Brown, Jimmy Terry, Zack Williams	*Lynn Adams, Russell Genaro, James Maxcey
Greeters	Greeters
Clifford & Nina Layton	Kevin & Maresha Scarsdale
Audio—Projector for AM	Audio—Projector for AM
Brown & Townzen	Brown & Townzen
Building Lock Up for AM & PM—G Fabian	Building Lock Up for AM & PM— Chris Lindelof

Evening Worship	Evening Worship
Opening Prayer Charlie Layton	Opening Prayer Bob Williams
Song Leader Greg Fabian	Song Leader Gary Adams
Communion Bob Williams, Zack Williams	Communion James Maxcey, Bobby Parker
Closing Prayer Chris Lindelof	Closing Prayer Chris Lindelof

### Worship Times:

#### *Sunday*

Bible Study .....9 am  
Morning Worship.....10 am  
Evening Worship.....6 pm

Wednesday Bible Study.....7 pm

### ELDERS

*Gary Adams 281-797-2575*  
*Greg Fabian 713-305-1626*  
*Chris Lindelof 281-224-2183*  
*Kevin Scarsdale 713-447-1866*

### DEACONS

*James Maxcey*  
*Bobby Parker*  
*Charlie Story*  
*Bob Williams*

### MINISTERS

*D.C. Brown* Pulpit Minister  
*Zack Williams* Youth Minister

### MISSIONARIES

*Benin, West Africa:*  
*Paul Tohionon - Bohicon*  
*Pascal Djedatin - Dassa*  
*Blaise Atta - Bétérou*  
*Clément Djebede - Okéwo*  
*Gaston Nda - Natitingou*  
*Valentine Ndimonte - Natitingou*  
*André Assogba - Gobé*  
*Dorotheé Tchekpo - Savé et Bessé*  
*Paul Kouagou - N'Dali*  
*Jonas Sambieni - Kaboua*  
*Gabin Agbeci - Savalou*  
*Portsmouth, Dominica, West Indies*  
*Lewis Romain*